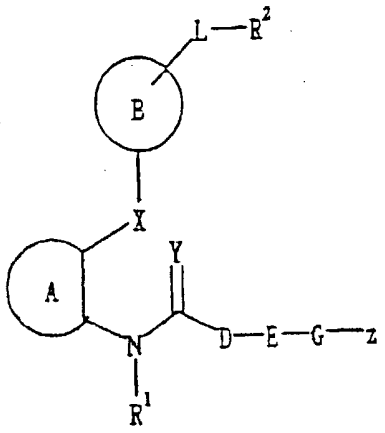
In the Claims

Please substitute the following claims 17, 25 and 31 for the claims 17, 25 and 31 now pending in the above-identified application.

1. (Previously Presented) A Compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

2. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein L is an alkylene group optionally interrupted by -O- and optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl group.

3. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein L is a C_{1-6} alkylene group.

4. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^2 is (1) an unsubstituted amino group, (2) a piperidyl group, or (3) an amino group optionally having one or two substituents selected from (i) a benzyl group, (ii) a C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted by an amino or phenyl group, (iii) a (mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl)-carbamoyl or -thiocarbamoyl group, (iv) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, (v) a C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl group, (vi) a piperidylcarbonyl group, and (vii) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom or an amino group.

5. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^2 is an unsubstituted amino group.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein A is an optionally-substituted benzene ring.

7. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein B is an optionally-substituted benzene ring.

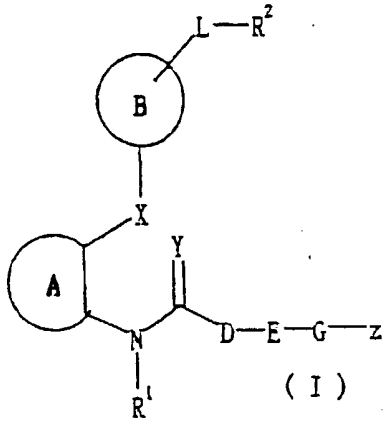
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is an oxygen atom.

Claims 10-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Y is two hydrogen atoms, and R^1 is an acyl group.

14. (Previously Presented) A Compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof



(I)

wherein Ring A is an optionally-substituted benzene ring;

Ring B is a benzene or cyclohexane ring optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

Z is a C_{6-14} aryl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, piperidyl, thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, thiazolyl, indanyl or indolyl group optionally having from 1 to 3 substituents selected from a halogen atom, a formyl group, a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, an oxo group and a pyrrolidinyl group;

D is a C_{1-6} alkylene group;

G is a C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally having a phenylene group and optionally substituted by a phenyl group;

R^1 is (a) a hydrogen atom, (b) a C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{6-14} aryl or C_{7-14} aralkyl group optionally substituted by substituent(s) selected from

(1) a halogen atom,

(2) a nitro group,

(3) an amino group optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyloxy-carbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aralkyloxy-carbonyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl group and a C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl group,

(4) (i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group, a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group, a C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl group, a carboxyl group or a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group, (ii) a phenyl group optionally substituted by a

hydroxy group, (iii) a benzoyl group, or (iv) a hydroxy group optionally substituted by a mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkylamino-carbonyl group,

(5) a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group,

(6) a phenyl group optionally substituted by a hydroxy group or a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group, and

(7) a thienyl group, a furyl group, a thiazolyl group, an indanyl group, an indolyl or a benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, or (c) an acyl group;

R^2 is (1) an unsubstituted amino group, (2) a piperidyl group, or (3) an amino group optionally having one or two substituents selected from

(i) a benzyl group,

(ii) a C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted by an amino or phenyl group,

(iii) a mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl or -thiocarbamoyl group,

(iv) a C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl group,

(v) a C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl group,

(vi) a piperidylcarbonyl group, and

(vii) a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom or an amino group;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

E is -CON(R^a)-

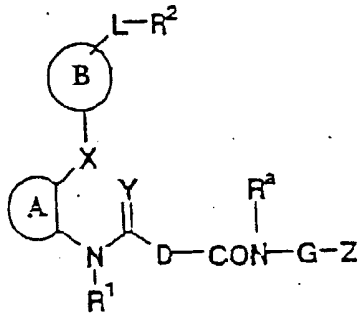
wherein R^a is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group; and

L is a C_{1-6} alkylene group optionally interrupted by -O- and optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl group.

15. (Previously Presented) A Compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein Z is a phenyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom; D is a C_{1-6} alkylene group; G is a C_{1-6} alkylene group; R^1 is (a) a C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{7-14} aralkyl group optionally substituted by substituent(s) selected from (1) a hydroxy group, (2) a phenyl group, (3) a thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, indanyl, indolyl or benzyloxycarbonylpiperidyl group, and (4) an amino group optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl, C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfonyl or C_{6-14} aryl-sulfonyl group, or (b) an acyl group; R^2 is an unsubstituted amino group; L is a C_{1-6} alkylene group; and Y is two hydrogen atoms.

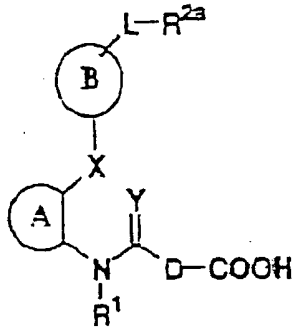
16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a compound of a formula (I-a):



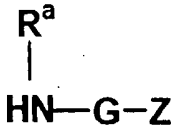
(I-a)

wherein the symbols **A, B, X, Y, L, D, G, Z, R^1, R^2 and R^a** have the same meanings as in claim 1, or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of a formula (IIa):



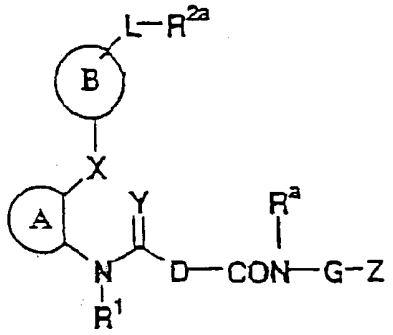
(IIa)

wherein R^{2a} represents an optionally-protected, optionally-substituted amino group; and the other symbols **A, B, X, Y, L, R^1 and D** have the same meanings as in claim 1, or its reactive derivative or salt with a compound of a formula (III):



(III)

wherein the symbols **G, Z and R^a** have the same meanings as in claim 1, or its salt to give a compound of a formula (Ia-a):

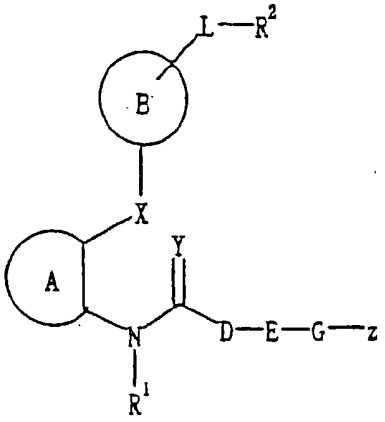


(Ia-a)

wherein the symbols **A, B, X, Y, L, D, G, Z, R^1, R^{2a} and R^a** have the same meanings as above, or its salt, optionally followed by de-protecting it.

18. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

E represents $-CON(R^a)-$

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

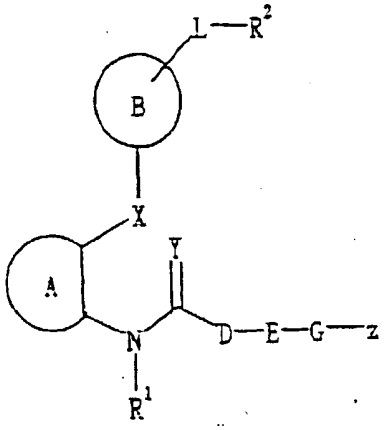
X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 19 and 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for treating diabetes comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula or a salt thereof



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

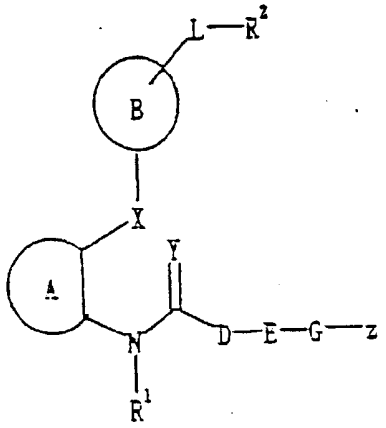
X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

to a mammal in need thereof.

Claims 22 and 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A method for treating obesity comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula or a salt thereof



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

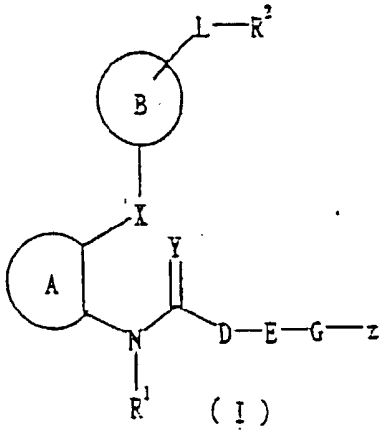
and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

to a mammal in need thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~complications of diabetes~~ **diabetic complications** comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula or a salt thereof



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

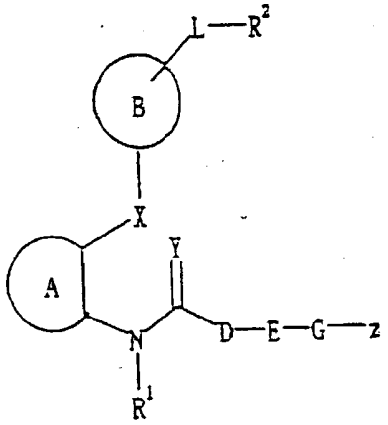
and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

to a mammal in need thereof.

26 (Previously Presented) A method for treating intractable diarrhea comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula or a salt thereof



(I)

wherein Ring A represents an optionally-substituted homocyclic aromatic ring;

Ring B represents an optionally-substituted benzene or cycloalkane ring;

Z represents an optionally-substituted cyclic group;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group, or an acyl group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;

G represents an optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkylene group;

L represents (1) a chemical bond or (2) a divalent hydrocarbon group optionally having from 1 to 5 substituents selected from;

(i) a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(ii) a halogeno-C_{1-6} alkyl group,

(iii) a phenyl group,

(iv) a benzyl group,

(v) an optionally-substituted amino group,

(vi) an optionally-substituted hydroxy group, and

(vii) a carbamoyl or thiocarbamoyl group optionally substituted by:

<1> a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

<2> an optionally-substituted phenyl group, or

<3> an optionally-substituted heterocyclic group,

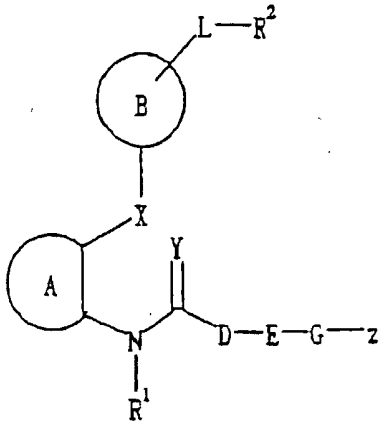
and optionally interrupted by -O- or -S-;

X represents an oxygen atom or an optionally-oxidized sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

to a mammal in need thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) A compound of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



(I)

wherein Ring A represents a homocyclic aromatic ring substituted with halogen;

Ring B represents a cyclic hydrocarbon group;

Z represents a halogenated cyclic hydrocarbon group;

R^1 represents an acyl group substituted with an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

R^2 represents an optionally-substituted amino group;

D is methylene, ethylene, propylene or butylene;

E represents -CON(R^a)-

wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom;

G is methylene or ethylene;

L is methylene or ethylene;

X represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; and

Y represents two hydrogen atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

28. (Previously Presented) N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) A method for treating diabetes comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof to a mammal in need thereof.

30. (Previously Presented) A method for treating obesity comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof to a mammal in need thereof.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~complications of diabetes~~ **diabetic complications** comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof to a mammal in need thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for treating intractable diarrhea comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of N-(2-fluorobenzyl)-4-[N'-[2-(3-aminomethylphenoxy)-4-chlorophenyl]-N'-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]aminobutylamide or a salt thereof to a mammal in need thereof.